Starred Question 174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December 1994 and state what would be the modalities for the formation of Expert Committees to look into various problems affecting export commodities under your Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Part (c) of the reply to the Starred Question 174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 1994 referred only to the representation on the Tobacco Board of tobacco growers, dealers, exporters and manufacturers. There is, however, no mention about the formation of Expert Committees.

Ban on Indian Books in Bangladesh

3111. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report published in the Economic Times dated 20th February, 1995 under the heading 'Indian books banned at fair' is correct;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such a ban can be imposed under the new WTO regime;

(e) whether Government would take up the matter at the forum; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The report under reference is not correct in as much as the terms and conditions of the particular book fair in Bangladesh prohibit sale or display, inter-alia, of any foreign books.

(b) and (c) The matter has not been taken up with the Bangladesh Government because the organisation of the fair and the imposition of the ban is by the Bangla Academy and not by the Government of Bangladesh.

(d) to (f) The questions do not arise as there is no ban on import of Indian books into Bangladesh.

Role of STC and MMTC in New Economic Policy

3112. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the use and need of keeping both MMTC and STC having similar trade activities after the new liberalised economic policy; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items hitherto chanalised through STC & MMTC, the Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient both the Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. Both the Corporations themselves have also been implementing plans and strategies to adapt to the current environment.

Dumping of Products by Foreign companies in India

3113. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign companies are dumping their products like steel, films etc. in India;

(b) whether Indian industries affected by such dumping have to fill in and file an application before the competent authority which is cumbersome procedure; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the onus of proof of dumping lies on the adversely affected Indian industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Designated Authority for Anti-Dumping in the Ministry of Commerce receives petitions from the domestic industry alleging dumping of certain products by foreign companies. Wherever such petitions contain prima-facie evidence of dumping and material injury to domestic industry from such dumping, investigation is undertaken. No petitions are pending on dumping of Steel and films.

(b) It is true that an Indian industry which is affected has to fill in the details as per a format prescribed by the competent authority. The format has been prescribed to obtain all nesesary detailis for the Designated Authority to investigate as per requirements of law. The procedure thereafter is to issue a Public Notice of initiaion of investigation, followed by a Public Hearing and issue of Provisional and Final findings.

(c) The onus of providing prima-facie evidence of dumping lies with the domestic industry. One this evidence is provided and the investigation is initiated, the onus is on the foreign companies to prove that they had not indulged in dumping.

Financial irregularities by Dubai Office of STC

3114.2 SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been misappropriation of Government funds and financial irrgularities in the Dubai office of STC;

(b) whether both the CBI and Government audit party have given adverse remarks in this matter;

(c) if so, whether an official posted at Dubai was abruptly transferred back to India; and

(d) whether Government have held further inquiry into these matters and if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Based on references received from the Central Vigilance Commission, CBI and Government Audit Party, alleging improper financial claims by Branch Manager, STC's Office at Dubai, the matter is presently under inquiry in the Corporation. Further action in the matter would be taken depending on the outcome of the inquiry. The official has since been transferred to India on completion of his tenure.

Foreign Exchange spent on imports

3115. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total foreign exchange spent for import of goods during the year 1993-94;

(b) what are the products imported;

(c) what is the total foreign exchange earned by export of goods during the year 1993-94; and

(d) what are the products exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) As per estimates of DGCI&S, Calcutta, the total amount of foreign exchange utilised in imports was US $ 23,306 million (Rs. 73,101 crores) during 1993-94, and amount of foreign ex-